

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for identifying a particular component of an electronic system that accesses a resource of said electronic system using electronic security value units, comprising the

5 steps of:

(a) selectively distributing said electronic security value units to a plurality of components of said electronic system, and creating a unique first association with each individual component to which the security electronic security value units are distributed;

10 (b) upon a particular access to a resource, creating a unique second association between particular electronic security value units and said particular access to said resource;

(c) analyzing said unique second association to determine which particular said security electronic security value units were used to access said resource; and

15 (d) analyzing said first association of said particular said electronic security value units to determine the identity of said component which accessed said resource.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said component is a group of one or more components, and wherein said resource is a group of one or more resources.

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said security electronic security value units are distributed to said component upon the request of said component for access to said resource.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of selectively distributing further comprises the step of distributing said electronic security value units from a first electronic bank server associated with said resource to a second electronic bank server associated with said plurality of components,

5 wherein said first electronic bank server creates and records a first part of said unique first association, said first part indicating the distribution of said electronic security value units to said second electronic bank server, and

10 wherein said second electronic bank server creates and records a second part of said unique first association, said second part indicating the distribution of said electronic security value units to said particular component.

15 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of creating a unique second association further comprises subsequently distributing the first associated security electronic security value units from said second electronic bank server to said plurality of components, and wherein each of said plurality of components creates and records said unique second association.

20 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second associations are protected against unauthorized access, tampering, and duplication.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said first and second associations are protected by encrypting said first and second associations.